



1 Plaintiff, by and through counsel, files this Complaint on behalf of himself and all  
 2 others similarly situated, and alleges against defendant, Vital Pharmaceuticals, Inc, which  
 3 does business under the trade mark VPX ("Defendant"), as follows.

4 **I. INTRODUCTION**

5 1. Defendant sells a variety of dietary supplements which it promotes as "fat  
 6 burners" and "energy enhancers" under the brand name of Redline®. ("Product")

7 2. Several adverse reactions have been reported from consumers who have  
 8 purchased and ingested the Product, including, but not limited to, chills, excessive  
 9 sweating, vomiting, convulsions, chest pains, and rapid heartbeat. Several consumers of  
 10 the Product have been hospitalized after consuming the Product.

11 3. Plaintiff contends that Defendant has failed to adequately warn consumers  
 12 of the dangers and health risks associated with using the Product, and that future adverse  
 13 health events, including possibly death, could result if the Product if consumers are not  
 14 adequately warned of these dangers and health risks. Plaintiff also contends that  
 15 Defendant is deceptively marketing the Product as having approved and unique drug-  
 16 quality characteristics.

17 **II. PARTIES**

18 4. Plaintiff Zack Aaronson is an individual who resides in, and is a citizen of,  
 19 the State of California. He respectfully requests a jury trial on claims asserting damages.

20 5. Defendant Vital Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a Florida corporation doing  
 21 business as, and selling the Product under, the trademark name of VPX. Defendant lists  
 22 with the Florida Secretary of State a principle place of business located at 5751 S.W. 41st  
 23 Street, Suite 300, Davie Florida 33331, and a registered agent for serviced of process by  
 24 the name of John H. Owoc, also at 15751 S.W. 41st Street Suite 300 Davie Florida  
 25 33331. For purposes of diversity, Defendant is a "citizen" of the State of Florida.  
 26 Defendant owns and maintains an interactive website, [http://www.vpxsports.com/sports-](http://www.vpxsports.com/sports-nutrition-supplements/fat-loss-energy/redline-rtd.aspx)  
 27 [nutrition-supplements/fat-loss-energy/redline-rtd.aspx](http://www.vpxsports.com/sports-nutrition-supplements/fat-loss-energy/redline-rtd.aspx), that is accessible to citizens of this  
 28 judicial district, and which advertises, promotes and markets the Product in this

1 jurisdiction and in this judicial district.

2 6. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon allege, that at all times  
3 herein mentioned, that Defendant and its employees, subsidiaries, affiliates and other  
4 related entities, were, at all times relevant herein, agents, servants and employees of each  
5 other, and at all times herein mentioned, each was acting within the purpose and scope of  
6 said agency and employment.

7 7. Whenever reference in this Complaint is made to any act or transaction of  
8 Defendant such allegation shall be deemed to mean that the principals, officers, directors,  
9 employees, agents, and/or representatives of Defendant committed, knew of, performed,  
10 authorized, ratified and/or directed such act or transaction on behalf of Defendant while  
11 actively engaged in the scope of their duties.

12 8. All allegations herein are based on information and belief and/or are likely  
13 to have evidentiary support after reasonable opportunity for further investigation and  
14 discovery.

### 15 III. VENUE AND JURISDICTION

16 9. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter presented by this  
17 Complaint because it is a class action arising under the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005  
18 (“CAFA”), Pub. L. No. 109-2, 119 Stat. 4 (2005), which explicitly provides for the  
19 original jurisdiction of the Federal Courts of any class action in which any member of the  
20 plaintiff class is a citizen of a state different from any Defendant, and in which the matter  
21 in controversy exceeds in the aggregate the sum of \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and  
22 costs. Plaintiff alleges that the total claims of individual members of the Class in this  
23 action are in excess of \$5,000,000 in the aggregate, exclusive of interest and costs, as  
24 required by 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2), (5). Plaintiff is a citizen of the State of California,  
25 and as set forth above, Defendant can be considered a citizen of the State of Florida for  
26 purposes of diversity. Therefore, diversity of citizenship exists under CAFA as required  
27 by 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A). Furthermore, Plaintiff allege that more than two-thirds of  
28 all of the members of the proposed Plaintiff Class in the aggregate are citizens of a state

1 other than California where this action is originally being filed, and that the total number  
2 of members of the proposed Plaintiff Class is greater than 100, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §  
3 1332(d)(5)(B).

4 10. Venue in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(a) because, as  
5 set forth above, Defendant conduct business within, may be found in, and are subject to  
6 personal jurisdiction in this district.

7 **IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

8 11. As set forth above, Defendant sells a variety Redline® energy drinks and  
9 other forms of the Product under the names: REDLINE® RTD, REDLINE PRINCESS®  
10 REDLINE Power Rush® REDLINE Xtreme® REDLINE® Concentrate and REDLINE®  
11 GEL CAPS.

12 12. The Product contains the following ingredients: anhydrous caffeine,  
13 evodiamine, tyrosine, yerba mate extract, green tea extract, 5-HTP, vinpocetine, and  
14 yohimbine. Certain of ingredients are notable for the effects they have been found to  
15 cause in humans, effects that go beyond the Product's goal of energy enhancement and  
16 weight loss:

17 a. Yohimbine is a stimulant which has been used in the treatment of  
18 posttraumatic stress disorder to aid recall of traumatic memories.<sup>1</sup> It can be  
19 dangerous if used in excessive amounts; side effects at certain doses include  
20 rapid heart rate, high blood pressure, overstimulation, insomnia, panic  
21 attacks, hallucinations, headaches, dizziness, and skin flushing.<sup>2</sup>

22 b. Vinpocetine is a semisynthetic derivative alkaloid of vincamine,<sup>3</sup> an extract

24  
25 <sup>1</sup> Approaches to the treatment of PTSD. <http://www.traumatherapie.de/users/vanderkolk/kolk2.html>.

26 <sup>2</sup> Prescription for Nutritional Healing, fourth edition, Phyllis A. Balch, CNC.

27 <sup>3</sup> IUPAC-IUBMB Joint Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature (1983).  
28 "Nomenclature and Symbolism for Amino Acids and Peptides". Recommendations on  
Organic & Biochemical Nomenclature, Symbols & Terminology.

1 from the periwinkle (plant) *Vinca minor*. It has been reported to have  
 2 cerebral blood-flow enhancing<sup>4</sup> and neuroprotective effects,<sup>5</sup> and is used in  
 3 Eastern Europe to treat cerebrovascular disorders and age-related memory  
 4 impairment.<sup>6</sup> Side effects include nausea, dizziness, anxiety, facial flushing,  
 5 insomnia, headache, drowsiness and dry mouth; it may also cause a  
 6 temporary drop in blood pressure.<sup>7</sup>

7 c. Tyrosine is one of the amino acids the body uses to synthesize proteins. In  
 8 the adrenal gland, it is converted to levodopa. Tyrosine increases plasma  
 9 neurotransmitter levels (particularly dopamine and norepinephrine)<sup>8</sup> but  
 10 has little if any effect on mood.<sup>9</sup>

11  
 12 <http://www.chem.qmul.ac.uk/iupac/AminoAcid/>. Retrieved on 2007-05-17.  
 13

14 <sup>4</sup> Leathwood PD, Pollet P (1982). "Diet-induced mood changes in normal populations".  
 15 Journal of psychiatric research (2): 147-54. doi:10.1016/0022-3956(82)90016-4. PMID  
 16 6764931. Journal of Neurological Sciences 2005 Mar 15; 229-230:275-84. Epub 2005  
 Jan 8. PMID: 15760651.

17 <sup>5</sup> Dézsi L, Kis-Varga I, Nagy J, Komlódi Z, Kárpáti E. "[Neuroprotective effects of  
 18 vinpocetine in vivo and in vitro. Apovincaminic acid derivatives as potential therapeutic  
 tools in ischemic stroke]." Acta Pharmaceutica Hungarica 2002; 72(2):84-91. 12498034.

19 <sup>6</sup> "Vinpocetine. Monograph." Alternative Medicine Review 2002 Jon's(3):240-3, pp.  
 20 240. PMID: 12126465.

21 <sup>7</sup> <http://altmedicine.about.com/od/herbsupplementguide/a/vinpocetine.htm>.

22 <sup>8</sup> Rasmussen DD, Ishizuka B, Quigley ME, Yen SS (1983). "Effects of tyrosine and  
 23 tryptophan ingestion on plasma catecholamine and 3,4-dihydroxyphenylacetic acid  
 24 concentrations". J. Clin. Endocrinol. Metab. (4): 760-3. PMID 6885965.

25 <sup>9</sup> Leathwood PD, Pollet P (1982). "Diet-induced mood changes in normal populations".  
 26 Journal of psychiatric research (2): 147-54. doi:10.1016/0022-3956(82)90016-4. PMID  
 27 676493; Deijen JB, Orlebeke JF (1994). "Effect of tyrosine on cognitive function and  
 28 blood pressure under stress". Brain Res. Bull. (3): 319-23. doi:10.1016/0361-  
 9230(94)90200-3. PMID 8293316; Lieberman HR, Corkin S, Spring BJ, Wurtman RJ,  
 Growdon JH (1985). "The effects of dietary neurotransmitter precursors on human  
 behavior". Am J Clin Nutr. (2): 366-370. PMID 4025206.

d. 5-Hydroxytryptophan (or 5-HTP) is a naturally occurring amino acid marketed in the United States and other countries as a dietary supplement for use as an antidepressant, appetite suppressant, and sleep aid. 5-HTP has not been thoroughly studied in a clinical setting, therefore, possible side effects and drug interactions are not well known. Evidence indicates possible side effects that include heart valve damage or disease.<sup>10</sup>

7        13. Redline is sold in convenience stores and other outlets, as well as online. In  
8 stores, it is sold alongside other energy drinks, canned iced teas and soft drinks. The  
9 ready-to-drink variety actually contains two doses of the Product, though this is not  
10 prominently displayed on the label. As a consequence, consumers are led to consume  
11 twice the recommended amount of the Product at one time (and Defendant thus sells  
12 more of the Product than it would if sold in smaller, single dose containers).

13        14. As noted above, persons who have consumed the Product have reported a  
14 range of adverse side effects, including, but not limited to, chills, excessive sweating,  
15 vomiting, convulsions, chest pains, and rapid heartbeat. California's poison control  
16 center toxicologists have reported similar problems among people who drank Redline.  
17 One analysis of ten Redline intoxication calls revealed that the patients, nine of whom  
18 were male, ranged in ages from 13 to 53. Some had ingested Redline's powdered  
19 concentrate, which contains 250 milligrams of caffeine per teaspoon; six had consumed  
20 just one 8-ounce can of the ready-to-drink variety. Complaints included nausea,  
21 vomiting, rapid heartbeat, hypertension, tremors, dizziness and chest pain.

22 15. Defendant's warning on Product labeling and elsewhere states:

23                   **WARNING: NOT FOR USE BY INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE AGE OF**  
24                   **18 YEARS. DO NOT USE IF PREGNANT OR NURSING.** Consult a  
25                   physician or licensed qualified health care professional before using this  
26                   product if you have, or have a family history of, heart disease, thyroid  
                 disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, depression or other psychiatric  
                 condition, glaucoma, difficulty in urinating, prostate enlargement, or

28 | 10 Id.

1 seizure disorder, or if you are using a monoamine oxidase inhibitor  
 2 (MAOI) or any other dietary supplement, prescription drug, or over-the-  
 3 counter drug containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or  
 4 phenylpropanolamine (ingredients found in certain allergy, asthma, cough  
 5 or cold, and weight control products). Do not exceed recommended  
 6 serving. Exceeding recommended serving may cause adverse health effects.  
 7 Discontinue use and call a physician or licensed qualified health care  
 8 professional immediately if you experience rapid heartbeat, dizziness,  
 9 severe headache, shortness of breath, or other similar symptoms. The  
 10 consumer assumes total liability if this product is used in a manner  
 11 inconsistent with label guidelines. Do not use for weight reduction. KEEP  
 12 OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.

13 16. Plaintiff contends that Defendant has failed to adequately warn consumers  
 14 of all the Product's possible side effects and health risks. Defendant has engaged in an  
 15 extensive national marketing and advertising campaign that includes, but is not limited  
 16 to, print, electronic media, television, and the internet to promote and sell the Product as  
 17 a safe and healthy dietary supplement – a "UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PROVEN  
 18 BREAKTHROUGH"<sup>11</sup> - that enhances energy and promotes weight loss. As Defendant  
 19 states on its website:

20 16 This freaky scientific breakthrough is the first physique-transforming  
 21 matrix to coax your body to burn fat through the "shivering response." It  
 22 is a physiological fact that when you shiver, your body releases a large  
 23 amount of stored body fat in an attempt to bring body temperature back to  
 24 normal. Redline® induces this effect quite efficiently. However, the power  
 25 of Redline® does not stop there, as its radical combination of novel  
 26 ingredients will also have you sweating up a thermogenic storm, and thus  
 27 burning fat through yet another unique mechanism.<sup>12</sup>

28 17. Plaintiff alleges that the warning above is insufficient and is overshadowed  
 29 by Defendant's extensive national campaign promoting the purported benefits of the  
 30 Product.

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26 <sup>11</sup> [http://www.vpxsports.com/sports-nutrition-supplements/fat-loss-energy/redline-  
 27 rtd.aspx](http://www.vpxsports.com/sports-nutrition-supplements/fat-loss-energy/redline-rtd.aspx)

28 <sup>12</sup> *Id.*

1       18. Plaintiff alleges that, as a result, many purchasers of the Product are  
 2 unaware of the potential dangers and risks associated with use of the Product and its  
 3 ingredients, and that Defendant is not using all means reasonably available to make those  
 4 dangers and risks known to consumers.

5       19. Plaintiff also contends that Defendant makes claims that the Product affects  
 6 the structure and function of the body, and therefore qualifies as a drug within the  
 7 meaning of Section 201(g)<sup>13</sup> of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (“FDCA”).<sup>14</sup>  
 8 Act. Such products are considered drugs when their intended use is established by  
 9 structure/function claims, such as those that appear on Defendant’s website<sup>15</sup> and its  
 10 other labeling and advertising, and they are not generally recognized among qualified  
 11 experts “as safe and effective for use under the conditions prescribed, recommended, or  
 12 suggested.”<sup>16</sup> As such, the claims made for the Product subject it to the requirements for  
 13

14       <sup>13</sup> 21 U.S.C. § 321(g)(1).

15       <sup>14</sup> Codified at 21 U.S.C. §§ 301, et seq., with implementing regulations found at 21  
 16 C.F.R. §§ 1.1, et seq. Federal provisions relating to new drug applications, premarket  
 17 approval applications and postmarketing requirements have been incorporated by  
 18 reference into California law. See Cal. Health and Safety Code §110110(a) (“All  
 19 regulations relating to (1) new drug applications, except for abbreviated new drug  
 20 applications, adopted pursuant to Section 505 of the federal act (21 U.S.C. Sec. 355), (2)  
 21 applications for premarket approval of new devices, adopted pursuant to Section 515 of  
 22 the federal act (21 U.S.C. Sec. 360e), (3) postmarketing reports, recordkeeping, and  
 23 other postapproval requirements for approved new drug applications or approved new  
 24 device premarket approval applications, adopted pursuant to the federal act, that are in  
 effect on January 1, 1993, or that are adopted on or after that date, shall be the new drug  
 and new device application regulations of this state.”) By incorporating the federal rules,  
 California’s regulation in this area parallels the federal provisions, and does not conflict  
 with, intrude upon, or pose an obstacle to the enforcement of the federal statutes and  
 regulations.

25       <sup>15</sup> “This freaky scientific breakthrough is the first physique-transforming matrix to coax  
 26 your body to burn fat...when you shiver, your body releases a large amount of stored  
 27 body fat...Redline® induces this effect...[the Product] will also have you sweating up a  
 thermogenic storm, and thus burning fat....” See note 11.

28       <sup>16</sup> 21 U.S.C. § 321(p).

1 new drugs pursuant to Section 201(p)<sup>17</sup> of the FDCA. Under Section 505<sup>18</sup> of the FDCA,  
 2 a “new drug” may not be introduced or delivered for introduction into interstate  
 3 commerce unless an FDA-approved new drug application is in effect for such drug. As  
 4 Defendant has not submitted such an application for the Product, its distribution in the  
 5 U.S. violates Section 505 of the FDCA. The federal Food and Drug Administration  
 6 (“FDA”) sent a warning letter to ThermoLife International<sup>19</sup> regarding similar claims in  
 7 2002. A true and correct copy of that letter is attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and  
 8 incorporated by reference (copy is highlighted for reference).

9       20. Plaintiff has purchased the Product several times in the year preceding the  
 10 filing of this action, and has used it for its intended and foreseeable purposes. He has  
 11 since, however, learned of the risks and side effects that have been linked to the Product,  
 12 and has ceased buying and ingesting it.

13       21. Defendant presents itself as a reputable, reliable and safe manufacturer of  
 14 dietary supplements, and Plaintiff relied on this and other representations by Defendant  
 15 in purchasing and using the Product. However, Plaintiff now contends that Defendant  
 16 placed profit before safety in the design, testing, manufacture, assembly, development,  
 17 marketing and sale of the Product, and that it engaged in deceptive marketing of the  
 18 Product. Plaintiff contends he has suffered damages as the result of the foregoing, in that,  
 19 among other things, he spent money on a Product that was not safe and therefore lacked  
 20 the value he had been led to believe the Product had, and for which he paid in the  
 21 purchase price of the Product. He would not have purchased the Product had he known  
 22 the true facts about it.

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<sup>17</sup> Id.

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<sup>18</sup> 21 U.S.C. § 355(a).

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27

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<sup>19</sup> <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/EnforcementActivitiesbyFDA/WarningLettersandNoticeofViolationLetterstoPharmaceuticalCompanies/UCM164565.pdf>.

## V. CLASS ALLEGATIONS

22. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in each of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

23. Plaintiff brings this class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (“FRCP”) and seeks certification of the claims and certain issues in this action pursuant to the applicable provisions of Rule 23, on behalf of all persons who, within the four years preceding the filing of this Complaint (“Class Period”) purchased the Product for personal use (“Class”).

24. Defendant's practices and omissions were applied uniformly to all members of the Class, so that the questions of law and fact are common to all members of the Class. All members of the putative Class were and are similarly affected by having purchased and used the Product for its intended and foreseeable purpose, and the relief sought herein is for the benefit of Plaintiff and members of the putative Class.

25. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that the Plaintiff Class is so numerous that joinder of all members would be impractical. Based on the annual sales of the Product and the popularity of the Product, it is apparent that the number of consumers of the Product would at least be in the many thousands, thereby making joinder impossible.

26. Questions of law and fact common to the Plaintiff Class exist that predominate over questions affecting only individual members, including, *inter alia*:

- a. Whether Defendant's practices in connection with the promotion, marketing, advertising and sale of the Product were deceptive, unlawful or unfair in any respect, thereby violating California's Unfair Competition Law ("UCL"), Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 et seq.;
- b. Whether Defendant's practices in connection with the promotion, marketing, advertising and sale of the Product were deceptive in any respect, thereby violating California's False Advertising Law ("FAL"), Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 et seq.;

- c. Whether Defendant fraudulently concealed the dangers and health risks associated with the Product;
- d. Whether Defendant breached implied warranties in its sale of the Product, thereby causing harm to Plaintiff and members of the Proposed Class;
- e. Whether Defendant breached express warranties in its sale of the Product, thereby causing harm to Plaintiff and members of the Class;
- f. Whether Defendant was negligent in its manufacture, production, distribution, promotion, marketing and advertising of the Product, thereby causing harm to the Plaintiff and members of the Class;
- g. Whether Defendant's Product is defective, thereby causing harm to Plaintiff and members of the Class;
- h. Whether Defendant's conduct as set forth above injured consumers and if so, the extent of the injury; and
- i. Whether Defendant failed to adequately warn of, and/or concealed the dangers and health risks associated with the Product.

27. The claims asserted by Plaintiff in this action are typical of the claims of the members of the Plaintiff Class, as the claims arise from the same course of conduct by Defendant, and the relief sought is common.

28. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the members of the Plaintiff Class. Plaintiff has retained counsel competent and experienced in both consumer protection and class action litigation.

29. Certification of this class action is appropriate under FRCP 23(b) and California Code of Civil Procedure §382 because the questions of law or fact common to the respective members of the Class predominate over questions of law or fact affecting only individual members. This predominance makes class litigation superior to any other method available for the fair and efficient adjudication of these claims.

30. Absent a class action, it would be highly unlikely that the representative Plaintiff or any other members of the Class would be able to protect their own interests

1 because the cost of litigation through individual lawsuits might exceed expected recovery.

2 31. Certification is also appropriate because Defendant acted or refused to act  
3 on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive  
4 relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

5 32. Furthermore, given the large number of consumers of the Product, allowing  
6 individual actions to proceed in lieu of a class action would run the risk of yielding  
7 inconsistent and conflicting adjudications.

8 33. A class action is a fair and appropriate method for the adjudication of the  
9 controversy, in that it will permit a large number of claims to be resolved in a single  
10 forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the unnecessary hardship that would  
11 result from the prosecution of numerous individual actions and the duplication of  
12 discovery, effort, expense and burden on the courts that such individual actions would  
13 engender.

14 34. The benefits of proceeding as a class action, including providing a method  
15 for obtaining redress for claims that would not be practical to pursue individually,  
16 outweigh any difficulties that might be argued with regard to the management of this  
17 class action.

18 VI. FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION:

19 FOR VIOLATION OF BUS & PROF. CODE § 17200 ET SEQ.

20 35. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in  
21 each of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

22 36. This cause of action is brought on behalf of Plaintiff and members of the  
23 general public pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § et seq., which provides that "unfair  
24 competition shall mean and include any unlawful, unfair or deceptive business act or  
25 practice and unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising and any act prohibited by  
26 Chapter I (commencing with Section ) as Part of Division of the Business and Professions  
27 Code."

28 37. Plaintiff alleges on information and belief that Defendant committed unfair

1 business acts and/or practices. Defendant and its related entities represent themselves as  
 2 being reputable, reliable and safe manufacturers of dietary supplements. However, the  
 3 utility of Defendant's practices related to the design, testing, manufacture, assembly,  
 4 development, marketing, advertising and labeling of the Product for the purpose of  
 5 selling it, and Defendant's inadequate Product warning and dosage recommendation, is  
 6 negligible, if any, when weighed against the harm to the general public, Plaintiff and  
 7 Members of the Class.

8       38.     The harmful impact upon members of the general public and the Class who  
 9 purchased and used the Product for its intended and foreseeable purpose far outweighs  
 10 any reasons or justifications by Defendant for these practices, set forth in detail above.  
 11 Defendant had and has an improper motive (profit before safety) in its practices related  
 12 to the design, testing, manufacture, assembly, development, marketing, advertising and  
 13 labeling of the Product, as well as in Defendant's inadequate Product warning and dosage  
 14 recommendation, as set forth in detail above.

15       39.     The utilization of such unfair business acts and practices was and is under  
 16 the sole control of Defendant, and is deceptively hidden from members of the general  
 17 public in its labeling, advertising, promotion and/or marketing of the Product, as well as  
 18 by the inadequate Product warning and dosage recommendation.

19       40.     As a purchaser and consumer of Defendant's Product, and as a member of  
 20 the general public in California who purchased the Product and used it for its intended  
 21 and foreseeable purpose, Plaintiff is entitled to and does bring this class action seeking all  
 22 available remedies under the UCL, including declaratory, injunctive and other equitable  
 23 relief, as well as attorneys' fees and costs.

24       41.     Defendant committed a deceptive act or practice by failing to make known  
 25 the risks inherent in the design, testing, manufacture, assembly, sale and use of the  
 26 Product as set forth in detail above, and by making marketing, advertising and/or  
 27 labeling representations that deceptively promoted the Product as having approved and  
 28 unique drug-quality properties. These acts and practices have a capacity, tendency,

1 and/or likelihood to deceive or confuse reasonable consumers in that such consumers had  
 2 a good faith basis for believing the Product was designed, tested, manufactured,  
 3 assembled and developed in a safe and reliable manner consistent with the standards of  
 4 Defendant's industry and that it had approved and unique drug-quality properties.

5       42.   Defendant's practices related to the design, testing, manufacture, assembly,  
 6 development, marketing, advertising and/or labeling of the Product for the purpose of  
 7 selling its Product, as well as its inadequate Product warning and dosage  
 8 recommendation, as set forth in detail above, constitute unfair and/or deceptive business  
 9 practices within the meaning of California Bus. & Prof. Code § et seq. Plaintiff and  
 10 members of the general public were and are likely to be deceived by Defendant as set  
 11 forth herein.

12       43.   Pursuant to California Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, Plaintiff, on behalf of  
 13 himself and members of the general public, seeks an order of this Court:

- 14           a. Enjoining Defendant from continuing to engage, use, or employ unfair  
 15 and/or deceptive business acts or practices related to the marketing,  
 16 advertising, labeling and sale of the Product for the purpose of selling its  
 17 Product in such manner as set forth in detail above; and
- 18           b. Restoring all monies that may have been acquired by Defendant as a result  
 19 of such unfair and/or deceptive act or practices.

20       44.   Plaintiff and members of the general public may be irreparably harmed  
 21 and/or denied an effective and complete remedy if such an order is not granted. The  
 22 unfair and/or deceptive acts and practices of Defendant, as described above, present a  
 23 serious threat to Plaintiff and members of the general public.

24       45.   As a result of Defendant's violation of the UCL, Plaintiff and the Class are  
 25 entitled to restitution for out-of-pocket expenses and economic harm. Pursuant to Civil  
 26 Code § 3287(a), Plaintiff and Members of the Class are further entitled to pre-judgment  
 27 interest as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's wrongful conduct. The amount of  
 28 damages suffered as a result is a sum certain and capable of calculation and Plaintiff and

1 Members of the Class are entitled to interest in an amount according to proof.

2 **VII. SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION:**

3 **FOR VIOLATIONS OF BUS. & PROF. CODE §17500 ET SEQ.**

4 46. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in  
5 each of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

6 47. In violation of California Bus. & Prof. Code §17500, Defendant has  
7 disseminated, or caused to be disseminated, deceptive representations: that promote the  
8 Product as a safe and healthy dietary supplement that enhances energy and causes weight  
9 loss, but minimize, and fail to adequately warn the public of, the dangers and health risks  
10 associated with use of the Product or the proper dosage; and that promote the Product as  
11 having approved and unique drug-quality properties.

12 48. Defendant's representations made in the advertising, labeling and/or  
13 marketing of the Product is misleading as set forth above.

14 49. Defendant continues to disseminate, or causes to be disseminated, such  
15 misleading statements alleged herein.

16 50. Defendant's representations regarding the Product are by their very nature  
17 unfair, deceptive and/or misleading within the meaning of California Bus. & Prof. Code  
18 §17500 et seq. The representations are likely to deceive, and continue to deceive,  
19 reasonable consumers.

20 51. In making and disseminating the representations alleged herein, Defendant  
21 knew or should have known that the statements were misleading, and acted in violation  
22 of California's Bus. & Prof. Code §17500 et seq.

23 52. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's wrongful conduct, Plaintiff  
24 and the Class Members have suffered substantial monetary and non-monetary damage.

25 53. Pursuant to Bus. & Prof. Code § 17535, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and  
26 members of the general public, seeks an order of this Court:

27 a. Enjoining Defendant from continuing to engage, use, or employ deceptive  
28 acts and/or practices related to the marketing, advertising and sale of the

Product for the purpose of selling its Product in such manner as set forth in detail above; and

b. Restoring all monies that may have been acquired by Defendant as a result of such deceptive acts and/or practices.

5        54. As a result of Defendant's violations of the FAL, Plaintiff and the Class are  
6 entitled to restitution for out-of-pocket expenses and economic harm. Pursuant to Civil  
7 Code § 3287(a), Plaintiff and Members of the Class are further entitled to pre-judgment  
8 interest as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's wrongful conduct. The amount of  
9 damages suffered as a result is a sum certain and capable of calculation, and Plaintiff and  
10 Members of the Class are entitled to interest in an amount according to proof.

### VIII. THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION:

## FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT

13       55. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in  
14 each of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

15       56. Plaintiff alleges on information and belief that Defendant suppressed facts  
16 regarding the dangers and health risks associated with use of the Product, as well as the  
17 purported approved and unique drug-quality properties of the Product, and has done so  
18 for the purpose of selling the Product in such manner as set forth in detail above.

19       57. Defendant was bound to disclose the truth about these matters, as set forth  
20 in detail above, but has failed to do so.

21        58. Defendant alleges on information and belief that Defendant concealed these  
22 facts when it knew the true and correct facts regarding the Product, and that it took steps  
23 to prevent these facts from becoming known to the general public in the advertising,  
24 marketing, promotion and/or sale of the Product.

25        59. The concealment of the true facts from Plaintiff and Members of the Class  
26 was done with the intent to induce them to purchase the Product.

27       60. The reliance by Plaintiff and Members of the Class was reasonable and  
28 justified in that Defendant appeared to be, and presented itself as, a reputable business.

1 61. Plaintiff and Members of the Class would not have purchased the Product  
2 and used it had they known the true facts about the Product.

3       62. As a direct and proximate result of the fraud and deceit alleged, Plaintiff  
4 and Members of the Class have suffered actual damages in an amount to be determined  
5 at trial in that they were induced to a product they would not have purchased had they  
6 known the true facts about it, and they have spent money on a product that is not what it  
7 was represented to be, and that lacks the value Defendant represented the Product had,  
8 which was reflected in the purchase price.

9       63. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant knew  
10 of the dangers and health risks associated with use of the Product set forth in detail  
11 above, and that it was making claims that the Product has approved and unique drug-  
12 quality properties when the Product is not generally recognized for those purposes as set  
13 forth above. Plaintiff also alleges on information and belief that Defendant intended that  
14 customers and the unknowing public should rely on Defendant's representations that the  
15 Product is a safe dietary supplement, and its claims that the Product has approved and  
16 unique drug-quality properties, as well as Defendant's suppression of the true facts about  
17 the Product, in buying the Product.

18       64. Plaintiff and other members of the general public, in purchasing and using  
19 the Product as herein alleged, did rely on Defendant's above representations and  
20 suppression of facts, all to their damage as hereinabove alleged. In doing these things,  
21 Defendant was guilty of malice, oppression and fraud, and plaintiff and Members of the  
22 Class are, therefore, entitled to recover punitive damages.

## IX. FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION:

## FOR BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY OF FITNESS FOR PURPOSE

25       65. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in  
26 each of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

27 66. Plaintiff and other Members of the Class sought an energy enhancing  
28 weight-loss product that was safe, healthy and effective. In doing so, Plaintiff and other

1 Members of the Class relied on Defendant's skill and judgment to select and furnish  
 2 suitable goods for that purpose, and on or about that time, Defendant sold the Product  
 3 to Plaintiff and other Members of the Class.

4 67. By its representations regarding the reputable nature of its companies and  
 5 related entities, and by its promotion and marketing of the Product, Defendant  
 6 warranted that the Product was a safe and healthy energy enhancing weight-loss product  
 7 that had approved and unique drug-quality properties. Plaintiff and Members of the  
 8 Class bought the Product from Defendant, relying on Defendant's skill and judgment.

9 68. However, Defendant's Product is not safe or healthy for use by consumers,  
 10 has not qualified for marketing as drug as set forth above, and is not fit for human use  
 11 and/or consumption, also as set forth in detail above.

12 69. At the time of sale, Defendant had reason to know the particular purpose  
 13 for which the goods were required, and that Plaintiff and Members of the Class were  
 14 relying on Defendant's skill and judgment to select and furnish suitable and safe goods,  
 15 so that there was an implied warranty that the goods were fit for this purpose.

16 70. However, Defendant breached the warranty implied at the time of sale in  
 17 that Plaintiff and Members of the Class did not receive suitable goods, and the goods  
 18 were not fit for the particular purpose for which they were made, as set forth above.

19 71. As a proximate result of this breach of warranty by Defendant, Plaintiff  
 20 and Members of the Class have suffered actual damages in an amount to be determined  
 21 at trial in that they were induced to a product they would not have purchased had they  
 22 known the true facts about, and have spent money on a product that is not what it was  
 23 represented to be, and that lacks the value Defendant represented the Product had, which  
 24 was reflected in the purchase price.

25 **X. FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION:**

26 **BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY**

27 72. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in  
 28 each of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

1       73. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant made  
2 different express warranties, including but not limited to express warranties that the  
3 Product would be free from defects, would promote healthy weight loss and energy  
4 enhancement, would be safe for the consumer using it, and that it had approved and  
5 unique drug-quality properties.

6       74. Plaintiff alleges on information and belief that Defendant has marketed the  
7 Product for use by consumers as set forth above, but that: the Product is not safe;  
8 Defendant has failed to adequately warn of the dangers and health risks associated with  
9 use of the Product, as well as the proper dosage; and that the Product has not met the  
10 requirements for marketing the Product as a drug.

11       75.    These acts Product constitute breaches of all applicable express and implied  
12 warranties as alleged in this Complaint, based on all laws that support the breach of  
13 express warranty claims by Plaintiff and other members of the Class. These laws include  
14 but are not limited to the Common Law, the California Uniform Commercial Code and  
15 California Civil Code section 1790, et seq. (California Song Beverly Act).

16        76. As a proximate result of the failure of the Product to perform as expressly  
17        warranted by Defendant, Plaintiff and Members of the Class have suffered actual  
18        damages in an amount to be determined at trial in that they were induced to a product  
19        they would not have purchased had they known the true facts about, and have spent  
20        money on a product that is not what it was represented to be, and that lacks the value  
21        Defendant represented the Product had, which was reflected in the purchase price.

22       77. Plaintiff gave timely notice to Defendant of this breach on behalf of  
23 themselves and all members of Plaintiff's Class prior to the filing of this Complaint.

24 78. Plaintiff cannot return the Product to Defendant for repair as the defect is  
25 irreparable.

## **XI. SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION:**

## FOR NEGLIGENCE

28 79. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in

1 each of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

2 80. Defendant owed Plaintiff and Members of the Class a duty to offer for sale  
3 in the stream of commerce a safe dietary supplement for use by consumers, and to warn  
4 consumers of the dangers and health risks associated with use of the Product, as well as  
5 the proper dosage.

6 81. Defendant breached this duty by offering and selling the Product, even  
7 though the design, testing, manufacture, assembly and development of the Product was  
8 and is negligent and/or defective, and by failing to take adequate precautions to ensure  
9 the safety of the Product and/or to warn consumers of the dangers and health risks  
10 associated with use of the Product, as well as the proper dosage.

11 82. Though its breach and failure to exercise the due care owed to Plaintiff and  
12 Members of the Class, Defendant was negligent in producing, processing, manufacturing,  
13 offering for sale, and selling the Product to Plaintiff and Members of the Class.

14 83. Defendant failed to use sufficient quality control, to do adequate testing, to  
15 perform proper manufacturing, production or processing, and/or failed to take sufficient  
16 measures to warn consumers of the dangers and health risks associated with the use of  
17 the Product, as well as its proper dosage, and to prevent the Product from being offered  
18 for sale, sold, or used by consumers in a dangerous and/or defective condition.

19 84. Defendant knew or should have known that the Product presented an  
20 unacceptable risk to the health of Plaintiff and members of the general public, including  
21 Members of the Class, and that its use would result in harm that was foreseeable and  
22 reasonably avoidable. The loss, damage, and injuries were foreseeable.

23 85. Defendant's breach of its duty and negligence proximately caused loss,  
24 damage, injury, and harm to Plaintiff and Members of the Class.

25 86. As a proximate result of this breach of duty by Defendant, Plaintiff and  
26 Members of the Class have suffered actual damages in an amount to be determined at  
27 trial in that they have spent money on a product that lacks the value Defendant  
28 represented the Product had, which was reflected in the purchase price of the Product.

**XII. SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION:**

87. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in each of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

88. Defendant sold the Product, which is defective and unreasonably dangerous, to Plaintiff and Members of the Class as set forth in detail above. Defendant's Product is manufactured, sold, distributed, supplied, marketed and promoted by Defendant, and is expected to reach, and did reach, Plaintiff and members of the Class without substantial change in the condition it was and is manufactured, distributed and sold by Defendant.

89. The Product was and is manufactured, distributed and sold by Defendant, and was and is defective in design and/or formulation in that when the Product leaves the hands of Defendant and/or sellers, it is unreasonably dangerous in that its foreseeable risks exceed the benefits associated with the design and/or formulation of the Product.

15       90. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant actually knew  
16 of the defective nature of the Product, but continued to design, manufacture, and market  
17 and sell it so as to maximize profits at the expense of public health and safety in  
18 conscious disregard of the foreseeable harm caused by the Product.

19        91. At all times relevant to this action, the Product was designed, tested,  
20 manufactured, assembled, developed, labeled, sterilized, licensed, marketed, advertised,  
21 promoted, sold, packaged, supplied and/or distributed by Defendant in a defective and  
22 unreasonably dangerous condition in ways which include, but are not limited to, the  
23 following:

24 a. When placed in the stream of commerce, the Product contains  
25 unreasonably dangerous design defects and is not reasonably safe and fit  
26 for its reasonably foreseeable purpose, or as it is intended to be used,  
27 thereby subjecting Plaintiff and the Class to risks which exceeded the  
28 benefits of the Product;

- b. The Product was insufficiently tested;
- c. The Product created and creates serious health risks and harm, all outweighing any potential utility of the Product; and
- d. In light of the potential risk and harm associated with the use of the Product by consumers, a reasonable person who had actual knowledge of this potential risk or harm would have concluded that the Product should not have been marketed, distributed or sold in that condition.

8        92. At all times relevant to this action, the Product was designed, tested,  
9 manufactured, assembled, developed, labeled, sterilized, licensed, marketed, advertised,  
10 promoted, sold packaged, supplied and/or distributed by Defendant and was expected to  
11 reach, and did reach purchasers of the Product, including plaintiff and Members of the  
12 Class, without substantial change in the defective and unreasonably dangerous condition  
13 in which it was and is sold.

14        93. At all times, plaintiff and members of the Class purchased the Product for  
15 its intended and reasonably foreseeable purpose.

16        94. As a direct and proximate result of the defective and unreasonably  
17 dangerous condition of the Product, Plaintiff and Members of the Class have suffered  
18 actual damages in an amount to be determined at trial in that they have spent money on  
19 a product that is not what it was represented to be, and that lacks the value Defendant  
20 represented the Product had, which was reflected in the purchase price.

21       95. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant knew  
22 that the Product was defective and unreasonably dangerous, and that Defendant intended  
23 that customers and the unknowing public should continue to purchase and use the  
24 Product. In doing these things, Defendant was guilty of malice, oppression, and fraud,  
25 and Plaintiff and Members of the Class are, therefore, entitled to recover punitive  
26 damages in an amount sufficient to deter such behavior in the future.

## PRAYER FOR RELIEF

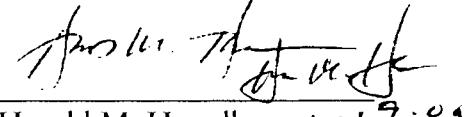
28 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated,

1 prays for relief, jointly and severally pursuant to each cause of action set forth in this  
2 Complaint as follows:

- 3 1. For an order certifying that the action may be maintained as a class action;
- 4 2. For an award of equitable relief as follows:
  - 5 a. Enjoining Defendant from continuing to engage, use, or employ unfair  
6 and/or deceptive business acts or practices related to the marketing,  
7 advertising, promotion and labeling of the Product for the purpose of  
8 selling its Product in such manner as set forth in detail above; and
  - 9 b. Restoring all monies that may have been acquired by Defendant as a result  
10 of such unfair and/or deceptive act or practices; and
- 11 3. For an award of attorney's fees pursuant to, *inter alia*, Code of Civil  
12 Procedure § 1021.5;
- 13 4. For actual damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
- 14 5. For punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial for the Third  
15 and Seventh Causes of Action;
- 16 6. For an award of costs and any other award the Court might deem  
17 appropriate; and
- 18 7. For pre- and post-judgment interest on any amounts awarded.

19 HEWELL LAW FIRM

20 21 Dated: June 18, 2009

22 By:   
Harold M. Hewell 6-19-09

23 Howard Rubinstein  
24 Attorney at Law  
25 914 Waters Avenue, Suite 20  
26 Aspen, Colorado 81611  
27 (To seek *pro hac vice* admission)  
28 Attorneys for Plaintiff

Exhibit “A”

**WARNING LETTER**

President/Owner  
ThermoLife International  
767 Industrial Rd.  
San Carlos, California 94070

Ref: 02-HFD-312-07

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is written in reference to your firm's marketing of the product Lipodryl II, which, according to your Internet web site, <http://www.thermolife.com>, contains, among other ingredients, 1R, 2S norephedrine HCl. Statements made on your Internet web site, indicate that this product is intended to be thermogenic and help "burn" fat.

This product cannot be marketed as a dietary supplement because the norephedrine HCl used in the product appears to be a synthetic compound that is not derived from any botanical source. Synthetic norephedrine HCl is not plant-derived and cannot, therefore, be considered a constituent or extract of a botanical source. Consequently, FDA has determined that synthetic ephedrine alkaloids are not "dietary ingredients" as defined in the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act [the Act, Section 201 (ff)(1)]. Therefore, products containing synthetic ephedrine alkaloids do not fall under the dietary supplement regulatory scheme.

Based on its intended uses, to affect the structure or function of the body, this product is a drug within the meaning of Section 201(g) of the Act. Such products are considered drugs when their intended use is established by structure/function claims, such as those that appear on your web site. Some of the claims on your Internet web site, <http://www.thermolife.com>, from which this product may be ordered, state, for example, "...most effective thermogenic fat burner...stimulate the release of brown fat...".

As a drug, the labeling claims made for this product subject it to the requirements for new drugs [Section 201(p) of the Act] because there is no evidence that this product is generally recognized as safe and effective for its claimed uses. Under Section 505(a) of the Act, a "new drug" may not be introduced or delivered for introduction into interstate commerce unless an FDA-approved new drug application is in effect for such drug. Because your product is not the subject of an approved NDA, it may not be marketed in the United States and its continued distribution violates Section 505 of the Act.

Page 2 - ThermoLife International

This letter is not intended to be an all-inclusive review of your Internet web site nor all labeling and products your firm markets. The violation of the Act described above is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of violations concerning your firm and its products. It is your responsibility to ensure that all products marketed by your firm, including other synthetic ephedrine alkaloid products, are in compliance with the Act and its implementing regulations.

We request that you take prompt action to correct these violations. Failure to promptly correct violations may result in enforcement action being initiated by the FDA without further notice. The Act provides for the seizure of illegal products and for injunction against the manufacturer and/or distributor of illegal products.

Please notify this office within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of this letter as to the specific steps you have taken to correct the stated violations. You should also include an explanation of each step being taken to identify and make corrections to assure that similar violations will not recur. If corrective action cannot be completed within 15 working days, state the reason for the delay and the time within which the corrections will be implemented.

Your reply should be sent to the attention of Ms. Vesna Stanoyevitch, Compliance Officer, at the Food and Drug Administration, Center For Drug Evaluation and Research, Office of Compliance (HFD-310), Metropark North I, 7520 Standish Place, Rockville, MD 20855.

Sincerely yours,

David J. Horowitz, Esq.  
Acting Director  
Office of Compliance  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research  
Food and Drug Administration

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE SECOND PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

**I (a) PLAINTIFFS**

ZACK AARONSON, as an individual and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

**(b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF**  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

San Diego, CA

**DEFENDANTS**

VITAL PHARMACEUTICALS, INC, a Florida corporation, doing business under the trademark VPX

**(c) ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER)**

Harold M. Hewell, Hewell Law Firm  
105 West F St., 2nd Fl., San Diego, CA 92101  
Tel: (619) 235-6854 · Fax: (888) 298-0177  
Email: hmhewell@hewell-lawfirm.com

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff      • 3 Federal Question  
(U.S. Government Not a Party)
- 2 U.S. Government Defendant       Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

**COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED DEFENDANT  
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)**

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED

**ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)**

'09 CV 1333 W CAB

**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (PLACE AN X IN ONE BOX  
(For Diversity Cases Only))**

PT	DEF	PT	DEF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizen of This State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in This State	• 4	• 4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizen of Another State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State	• 5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foreign Nation	• 6	• 6

**IV. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE US CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE. DO NOT CITE JURISDICTIONAL STATUTES UNLESS DIVERSITY).**

Common law and California statutory causes of action arising from unfair and deceptive business practices, as well as product liability. Diversity jurisdiction under Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 ("CAFA"), Pub. L. No. 109-2, 119. Stat. 4 (2005)

**V. NATURE OF SUIT (PLACE AN X IN ONE BOX ONLY)**

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
• 110 Insurance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL INJURY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL INJURY	610 Agriculture	400 State Reappointment
• 120 Marine	310 Airplane	• 362 Personal Injury-Medical Malpractice	422 Appeal 28 USC 158	410 Antitrust
• 130 Miller Act	315 Airplane Product Liability	• 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability	423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	430 Banks and Banking
• 140 Negotiable Instrument	320 Assault, Libel & Slander	• 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	<b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b>	450 Commerce/ICC Rates/etc.
• 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	330 Federal Employers' Liability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL PROPERTY	820 Copyright	460 Deportation
• 151 Medicare Act	340 Marine	• 370 Other Fraud	830 Patent	470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations
• 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)	345 Marine Product Liability	• 371 Truth in Lending	840 Trademark	480 Selective Service
• 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veterans Benefits	350 Motor Vehicle	• 380 Other Personal Property Damage	<b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b>	850 Securities/Commodities Exchange
• 160 Stockholders Suits	355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	• 385 Property Damage Product Liability	861 TIIA (1958)	875 Customer Challenge 12 USC
• 190 Other Contract	360 Other Personal Injury		862 Black Lung (923)	891 Agricultural Acts
• 195 Contract Product Liability			863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	892 Economic Stabilization Act
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIONS	864 SSID Title XVI	893 Environmental Matters
• 210 Land Condemnation	441 Voting	510 Motions to Vacate Sentence	865 RSL (405(e))	894 Energy Allocation Act
• 220 Foreclosure	442 Employment	Habeas Corpus	<b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b>	895 Freedom of Information Act
• 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	443 Housing/Accommodations	530 General	870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice
• 240 Tort to Land	444 Welfare	535 Death Penalty	871 IRS - Third Party	950 Constitutionality of State
• 245 Tort Product Liability	440 Other Civil Rights	540 Mandamus & Other	26 USC 7609	890 Other Statutory Actions
• 290 All Other Real Property		550 Civil Rights		
		555 Prisoner Conditions		

**VI. ORIGIN (PLACE AN X IN ONE BOX ONLY)**

- Original Proceeding      • 2 Removal from State Court      • 3 Remanded from Appellate Court      • 4 Reinstated or Reopened      • 5 Transferred from another district (specify)      • 6 Multidistrict Litigation      • 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION  
UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

**DEMAND \$**

Exceeds \$5,000,000, plus equitable relief

Check YES only if demanded in complaint:

**JURY DEMAND**  YES • NO

**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See Instructions):**

JUDGE

Docket Number

DATE 6/18/09

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

II-2184 AJSD  
EODMA\PCDOCS\WORDPERFECT\22816\1 January 24, 2000 (3:10pm)

6/19/09

6/19/09

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS-44

## Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

I.(a) Plaintiffs - Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.

(b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved).

(c) Attorneys. Enter firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".

II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.C.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place the "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction is based on 28 U.S.C. 1335 and 1338. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.

United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an X in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS-44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.

IV. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause.

V. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section IV above, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.

VI. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.

Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate's decision.

VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

Demand. In this space enter the dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) being demanded or indicate other demand such as a preliminary injunction.

Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.

VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS-44 is used to reference relating pending cases if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.  
(rev. 07/89)

Court Name: USDC California Southern  
Division: 3  
Receipt Number: CAS002184  
Cashier ID: sramirez  
Transaction Date: 06/19/2009  
Payer Name: CENTRAL ATTY. SVCS.

-----  
CIVIL FILING FEE

For: AARONSON V. VITAL  
Case/Party: D-CAS-3-09-CV-001333-001  
Amount: \$350.00

-----  
CHECK

Check/Money Order Num: 11437  
Amt Tendered: \$350.00

-----  
Total Due: \$350.00  
Total Tendered: \$350.00  
Change Amt: \$0.00

There will be a fee of \$45.00  
charged for any returned check.